CHAPTER 262

2479

## **GOVERNMENT - STATE**

HOUSE BILL 19-1239

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Tipper and Caraveo, Arndt, Benavidez, Bird, Buckner, Coleman, Duran, Esgar, Exum, Galindo, Garnett, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Gray, Hansen, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Jaquez Lewis, Kennedy, Kipp, Kraft-Tharp, Lontine, McCluskie, McLachlan, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Mullica, Roberts, Singer, Sirota, Snyder, Sullivan, Titone, Valdez A., Valdez D., Weissman, Becker, Buentello, Froelich;

also SENATOR(S) Priola and Winter, Bridges, Donovan, Ginal, Gonzales, Lee, Moreno, Pettersen, Rodriguez, Story, Williams A.,

## AN ACT

CONCERNING THE PROMOTION OF AN ACCURATE COUNT IN THE DECENNIAL CENSUS BY CREATING A CENSUS OUTREACH PROGRAM, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH, MAKING AN APPROPRIATION.

Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

**SECTION 1.** The short title of this act is the "Every Person Counts In Colorado Act".

**SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-32-125 and 24-32-126 as follows:

- **24-32-125.** Census outreach grant program creation committee legislative declaration definitions repeal. (1) Legislative declaration. (a) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
- (I) The decennial census of the population, the actual enumeration of the number of persons living in the United States and all United States territories, is required by the United States constitution;
- (II) A PRECISE COUNT IS VITAL TO GUARANTEEING EACH STATE RECEIVES THE APPROPRIATE NUMBER OF SEATS IN THE UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, INFLUENCES HOW STATES DRAW THEIR LEGISLATIVE DISTRICTS, ENSURES COMMUNITIES ACROSS THE COUNTRY RECEIVE PROPER FUNDING FOR A VARIETY OF IMPORTANT SERVICES ON WHICH INDIVIDUALS, FAMILIES, AND LOCAL ECONOMIES RELY, AND PROVIDES SOCIAL, DEMOGRAPHIC, AND ECONOMIC PROFILES

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

OF THE NATION'S PEOPLE TO GUIDE POLICY DECISIONS AT EACH LEVEL OF GOVERNMENT;

- (III) OF THE APPROXIMATELY EIGHT HUNDRED EIGHTY-THREE BILLION DOLLARS DISTRIBUTED THROUGH FEDERAL PROGRAMS BASED ON CENSUS DATA IN THE 2016 FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR, COLORADO RECEIVED MORE THAN THIRTEEN BILLION DOLLARS THROUGH FEDERAL GRANTS AND DIRECT PAYMENTS FOR PROGRAMS THAT PROVIDE COLORADANS WITH HEALTH CARE, EDUCATION, TRANSPORTATION, NUTRITION, CHILD CARE, HOUSING, ENERGY ASSISTANCE, AND MANY OTHER SERVICES;
- (IV) The many significant hurdles experienced by the 2020 census, including insufficient funding, especially for outreach in hard-to-count communities and populations that have been historically undercounted by previous decennial censuses, has raised significant concern about an undercount of the Colorado population in the 2020 census;
- (V) During the 2010 census, even with the additional outreach resources available in comparison to those available for the 2020 census, in Colorado children under the age of five were undercounted by eighteen thousand and Latino children under the age of five were undercounted by eight thousand; and
- (VI) Undercounting the population of Colorado and its local jurisdictions jeopardizes funding from several federal assistance programs that allocate funds on the basis of decennial census-derived statistics and jeopardizes the likelihood of the state gaining a congressional seat during congressional reapportionment in contrast to states that make a significant investment in a complete count.
  - (b) THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY FURTHER FINDS AND DECLARES THAT:
- (I) The future prosperity and well-being of the state depend on the quality of the information collected by the census bureau about our population and infrastructure. Census data guides a wide range of decisions made in the public and private sectors that affect the lives of all Coloradans; and
- (II) Based on a report by the Colorado fiscal institute that calculated the money necessary to conduct outreach to the one million five hundred thousand hard-to-count individuals in the state, a twelve million dollar investment in a grant program would allow the state to allocate resources, through grants to local governments, intergovernmental agencies, councils of government, and nonprofit organizations, to hard-to-count communities in Colorado to increase the response rate and accuracy of the 2020 census in Colorado.
- (2) **Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise requires:
  - (a) "2020 CENSUS" MEANS THE DECENNIAL CENSUS CONDUCTED BY THE FEDERAL

United States census bureau in 2020 to determine the number of people living in the United States.

- (b) "Committee" means the 2020 census outreach grant program committee created in subsection (5) of this section.
  - (c) "DEPARTMENT" MEANS THE DEPARTMENT OF LOCAL AFFAIRS.
- (d) "Division" means the division of local government created in the department.
- (e) "ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT" MEANS AN ENTITY THAT IS ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE A GRANT THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM AND INCLUDES LOCAL GOVERNMENTS, INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGENCIES, COUNCILS OF GOVERNMENT, HOUSING AUTHORITIES, SCHOOL DISTRICTS, NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS, THE SOUTHERN UTE INDIAN TRIBE, AND THE UTE MOUNTAIN UTE TRIBE.
- (f) "Grant program" means the 2020 census outreach grant program created in subsection (3) of this section.
- (g) "Hard-to-count communities" means communities and populations that have been historically undercounted by previous decennial censuses, including, but not necessarily limited to, children under five years, racial and ethnic minorities, communities of color, American Indians and Alaskan natives, people with disabilities, people with low incomes, immigrants, people who speak and understand limited amounts of English, people living in rural areas of the state, people in the state without sufficient internet access, adults age sixty or over, and people who are transient or homeless.
- (h) "Nonprofit organization" means a tax-exempt charitable or social welfare organization operating under section 501 (c)(3) or 501 (c)(4) of title 26 of the United States Code, the federal "Internal Revenue Code of 1986", as amended.
- (3) 2020 census outreach grant program creation. (a) There is hereby created in the division the 2020 census outreach grant program to provide grants to eligible recipients to support the accurate counting of the population of the state for the 2020 census.
- (b) The department, in coordination with the committee, shall implement and administer the grant program and shall award grants as provided in this section, subject to available appropriations. Grants shall be paid from money appropriated to the department for the grant program as provided in subsection (8)(a) of this section and from any gifts, grants, or donations received by the department for the purposes of the grant program pursuant to subsection (8)(b) of this section.
- (c) The department shall develop policies and procedures to implement and administer the grant program. At a minimum, the policies must specify the time frames for applying for grants, the form of the grant program

APPLICATION, AND THE CONTENTS OF THE REPORT REQUIRED BY ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS THAT RECEIVED GRANT MONEY PURSUANT TO SUBSECTION (7)(a) OF THIS SECTION. IN ADDITION, THE POLICIES SHALL SPECIFY THE TERMS UNDER WHICH AND THE MECHANISM BY WHICH AN ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT SHALL RETURN TO THE STATE GRANT MONEY NOT FULLY ENCUMBERED AND SPENT BY JUNE 30, 2020.

- (4) **Purposes for which grant money may be used.** Eligible recipients may use the money received through the grant program for the following purposes:
- (a) To conduct 2020 census outreach, education, and promotion to focus on hard-to-count communities in the state and to increase the self-response rate and accuracy of the 2020 census in the state; or
- (b) To further award grant money to other local governments, intergovernmental agencies, councils of government, housing authorities, school districts, or nonprofit organizations, so long as the grant money will be used for the purposes specified in subsection (4)(a) of this section.
- (5) 2020 census outreach grant program committee. (a) The 2020 census outreach grant program committee is created in the department to make recommendations to the department regarding the policies and procedures developed pursuant to subsection (3)(c) of this section, to review grant applications, and to make recommendations to the executive director of the department regarding which applications to approve for a grant award. The committee consists of five members who shall be appointed by June 1, 2019, as follows:
- (I) The speaker of the house of representatives, the president of the senate, and the minority leaders of the house of representatives and the senate shall each appoint one committee member who is not a member of the general assembly; and
  - (II) THE SECRETARY OF STATE SHALL APPOINT ONE COMMITTEE MEMBER.
- (b) In making appointments to the committee, the elected officials making the appointments shall attempt to appoint committee members that reflect the geographic and demographic diversity of the state and shall attempt to include members of diverse political, racial, cultural, income, and ability groups. In addition, the elected officials making the appointments shall ensure that his or her appointee or appointees have not, within the last five years, worked for or served on the board of any eligible recipient that will likely apply for a grant through the grant program. Any eligible recipient for which a committee member has worked or served on the board in the last five years is disqualified from applying for a grant through the grant program.
- (c) If for any reason there is a vacancy on the committee after June 15, 2019, the secretary of state shall fill the vacancy as soon as possible.

- (d) The members of the committee shall select one person to serve as the chair of the committee.
- (e) The committee shall hold its first meeting no later than July 1, 2019.
- (f) Members of the committee shall not receive compensation; except that the members of the committee who reside more than fifty miles from the location of a committee hearing are entitled to receive the same per diem compensation and reimbursement of expenses as those provided for members of boards and commissions pursuant to section 24-34-102(13) and for expenses incurred in traveling to and from the meetings of the committee, including any required dependent or attendant travel, food, and lodging. Members of the committee are also entitled to be reimbursed for any expenses related to dependent or attendant care necessary to support their participation in a committee hearing.
- (g) The chair of the committee shall ensure that at every meeting of the committee there is an opportunity for public comment, including public comments submitted via the internet. The chair of the committee shall solicit input online or in person at committee meetings before and during the process through which the committee makes recommendations to the department regarding grant recipients.
- (h) On or before August 15,2019, the committee shall notify the public of the grant program.
- (6) **Grant applications and awards.** (a) To receive a grant, an eligible recipient must submit an application to the department in accordance with the policies and procedures developed by the department. At a minimum the application must include the following information:
- (I) A description of how the eligible recipient's current capacity for outreach and community engagement enables it to increase the self-response rate and accuracy of the 2020 census in the state, specifically in hard-to-count communities, including outreach, education, and promotion efforts;
- (II) A description of how the eligible recipient plans to use grant money to increase the response rate and accuracy of the 2020 census in the state;
- (III) The ways in which the eligible recipient will use grant money to improve self-response rates in the  $2020\,$  census in hard-to-count communities in the state; and
- (IV) Whether the eligible recipient plans to use grant money to further grant awards to other entities, and, if applicable, the nature of the work of those entities and the amount of the grant money the eligible recipient intends to retain to cover its administrative costs.

- (b) The committee shall review the applications received pursuant to this section and shall make recommendations to the executive director of the department regarding which grant applications to approve. The executive director of the department shall have sole discretion in making the grant awards. In developing its recommendations the committee shall consider:
- (I) Whether the eligible recipient will be conducting outreach in hard-to-count communities in the state; and
- (II) The size and geographic and demographic diversity of the hard-to-count communities in the state in which outreach, education, and promotion of the 2020 census will occur as provided by all eligible recipients that receive grant money.
- (c) Subject to available appropriations, the executive director of the department shall award grants for the purposes specified in this section on or before November 1, 2019. The executive director of the department shall distribute the grant money to eligible recipients that were awarded grants within thirty days after the grants are awarded.
- (d) Any eligible recipient that is awarded a grant pursuant to this section shall notify the county in which the eligible recipient is situated of the grant award.
- (e) The contract that accompanies a grant award pursuant to this section shall stipulate that an eligible recipient is required to return to the state any grant money not fully encumbered and spent by the eligible recipient by June 30, 2020.
- (7) Reporting requirements. (a) Each eligible recipient that received a grant through the grant program shall submit a report and supporting documentation of eligible expenditures to the department including information to be determined by the director of the division pursuant to the policies and procedures developed pursuant to subsection (3)(c) of this section. If an eligible recipient used grant money to make grants to other entities, the eligible recipient shall include in the report the amount of grant money it used for its administrative costs in making additional grants. Each eligible recipient shall submit an initial report and supporting documentation on or before December 1, 2020, and shall submit a final report on or before May 1, 2021.
- (b) The department shall submit a report to the local government committees of the senate and the house of representatives, or any successor committees, and to the governor regarding the 2020 census outreach, education, and promotion conducted through the grant program. The department shall submit an initial report with available information required pursuant to this subsection (7)(b) on or before February 1, 2021. The initial report shall include at a minimum the information specified in subsections (7)(b)(I) and (7)(b)(II) of this section. The department shall submit a final report on or before January 1, 2023.

AT A MINIMUM THE FINAL REPORT MUST INCLUDE:

- (I) A LIST OF ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS THAT RECEIVED GRANTS AND THE AMOUNT OF THE GRANT AWARDED TO EACH ELIGIBLE RECIPIENT;
- (II) The population on which each eligible recipient that received a grant focused its 2020 census outreach using grant money;
  - (III) COLORADO'S SELF-RESPONSE RATE IN THE 2020 CENSUS;
  - (IV) Lessons Learned from 2020 census outreach;
- (V) A recommended time line for the state's involvement in the 2030 census outreach; and
- (VI) THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE HIRED WITH GRANT MONEY AND THE LOCATIONS SERVED BY THOSE PEOPLE; AND
- (VII) THE AMOUNT OF GRANT MONEY USED FOR PAYROLL EXPENSES AND THE AVERAGE WAGE PAID PER PERSON THROUGH THE GRANT PROGRAM.
- (8) **Sources of grant money.** (a) For the 2019-20 fiscal year, the general assembly shall appropriate six million dollars to the department to award grants to eligible recipients for the purposes of the grant program specified in this section. Any unexpended and unencumbered money from the appropriation remains available for expenditure by the department for the purposes of this section in the next fiscal year without further appropriation.
- (b) THE DEPARTMENT MAY SOLICIT, ACCEPT, AND EXPEND GIFTS, GRANTS, OR DONATIONS FROM PRIVATE OR PUBLIC SOURCES FOR THE PURPOSES OF THIS SECTION.
  - (9) **Repeal.** This section is repealed, effective July 1, 2022.
- **24-32-126.** Strategic action plan for upcoming decennial census. On or before May 1, 2026, and on or before May 1 every ten years thereafter, the department and the office of the governor shall develop a strategic action plan, including a discussion of necessary funding for the plan, for outreach, education, and promotion for a successful count of the population in Colorado during the upcoming decennial census.
- **SECTION 3. Appropriation.** For the 2019-20 state fiscal year, \$6,000,000 is appropriated to the department of local affairs for use by the division of local government. This appropriation is from the general fund, and is based on an assumption that the division will require an additional 1.4 FTE and associated direct and indirect costs of administering the program. To implement this act, the division may use this appropriation for the 2020 census outreach grant program.

**SECTION 4. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.

Approved: May 23, 2019